



NEWS RELEASE

BJVA02:014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, January 29, 2002

Contact: Shad Balch
Alfie Charles
916/653-6575

Day Two of Voter Registration Week – Jones Adds to Grocery Shopping List: Register to Vote!

*“Grocer’s Day” of Voter Registration Week Floods Nearly 6,000
California Grocery Stores with Voter Registration Material*

FRESNO --- In Day 2 of his weeklong, statewide *Vote America Voter Registration Week*, Secretary of State Bill Jones visited an Albertson’s Grocery store in Fresno today to encourage shoppers to take advantage of the ease and convenience of registering to vote without having to deviate from their daily routine – even while shopping for groceries!

“Registering to vote has never been easier,” said Jones. “With the cooperation of companies like Albertson’s Food and Drug Stores, nearly 6,000 grocery stores throughout California will have voter registration material available so shoppers can register to vote without having to disrupt their normal routine.”

“Grocer’s Day” is the second stop of Jones’ seven-day *Vote America Voter Registration Week* where Californians will find an opportunity to register to vote as they go about their daily lives – where they work, where they shop, where they go to school and where they play. Jones has conducted a full week of nonpartisan statewide voter registration drives since 1996.

"Albertson's is proud to partner with Secretary of State Bill Jones in his effort to increase the number people participating in the election process," explained Stacia Hill Levenfeld, Public Affairs Manger for Albertson's Northern California. "Providing shoppers voter registration materials at their local food and drug stores is a convenient opportunity for more citizens to be involved."

To encourage voter registration and participation, Jones will be working with thousands of public and private sector partners to provide potential voters with the

-more-

A Project of the
California Secretary of State

BILL JONES
California Secretary of State
VOTE AMERICA CHAIR

VOTE AMERICA CO-CHAIRS

JOHN BURTON
President Pro Tem
California State Senate

JAMES L. BRULTE
Senate Republican Leader
California State Senate

ROBERT HERTZBERG
Speaker of the Assembly
California State Assembly

DAVE COX
Assembly Republican Leader
California State Assembly

JAMES K. HAHN
Mayor
City of Los Angeles

DON KNABE
Supervisor
County of Los Angeles

HERB WESSON
Speaker-Elect of the Assembly
California State Assembly

opportunity to register to vote before the February 19, 2002 deadline. *Vote America Voter Registration Week* Partners include some of the state's leading grocery stores, small businesses, large corporations, industry trade associations, dry cleaners, bookstores, Rock-The-Vote, the World Wrestling Federation and more.

The themes for each day of Voter Registration Week are:

- *Monday, January 28th - Kick-Off of the week's events at the State Capitol*
- *Tuesday, January 29th - Grocer's Day*
- *Wednesday, January 30th - Education Day*
- *Thursday, January 31st - Business/Technology Day*
- *Friday, February 1st - Entertainment Day*
- *Saturday, February 2nd - Family Day*
- *Sunday, February 3rd - Sports Day*

The goal of *Vote America* is to provide every eligible voter with the opportunity to be a part of America and help protect democracy at its very core – the ballot box. In addition to registering voters, educating voters, and encouraging voter turnout, *Vote America* is also a volunteer recruitment program, asking voters to serve as pollworkers, host a polling place and more. Relying heavily on the combined efforts of the private sector, traditional voting and civic organizations, *Vote America* is continuously seeking new partners to help spread the word about getting involved in Democracy.

For more information about voter registration and voting, please visit the *Vote America* web site at www.voteamerica.ca.gov or the Secretary of State's web site at www.ss.ca.gov.

Jones also urged voters to become familiar with the new changes in the way the primary election will be conducted this March 5th in California. This year will mark the fourth change in primary rules in the last four statewide primary elections.

Under the new modified primary structure, partisan voters (those voters who have chosen to affiliate with a qualified political party) will only be permitted to vote for candidates in their own political party. Voters who decline to state a party affiliation on their voter registration card will be permitted to cast either a non-partisan ballot or may select a partisan ballot from one of the four political parties who have passed rules that permit independent voters to vote in their party's primary elections. The parties who have opened their primaries to unaffiliated voters are the Democratic, Republican, American Independent and Natural Law parties.

For more information about the state's new primary election rules, voters are encouraged to call the state's toll free number 1-866-387-8683 (1-866-DTS-VOTE).